

This is a Request For Information (RFI) announcement for purposes of conducting market research only. There is no solicitation available at this time. Requests for a solicitation will not receive a response.

The U.S. Forest Service Technology and Development Program is conducting market research to identify materials, laminates (material layers glued together), or components that have a possible use in the wildland firefighter personal fire shelter. A fire shelter is an aluminized cloth tent that offers protection in a fire entrapment situation by reflecting radiant heat and providing a volume of breathable air. They are used by firefighters in the rare occurrence of a fire entrapment where firefighters feel the shelter is needed for protection from heat, smoke, and/or ember showers.

The objective of this program is to review materials that may improve the level of radiant and convective heat protection while maintaining strength as compared to the current fire shelter. Size and weight limitations have not been defined. Since the fire shelter is carried along with other firefighter equipment, the size and weight of materials will be highly considered.

Information about the current fire shelter is available at [http://www.nifc.gov/fireShelt/fshelt\\_main.html](http://www.nifc.gov/fireShelt/fshelt_main.html). Specifications and technical drawings (see table below) for the current fire shelter and accessories are available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/programs/fire/specs.htm>.

Specification	Drawing	Specification Name
5100-606C	1000D	Shelter, Fire, M-2002
5100-607D	-	Cloths, Laminated, Fire Shelter, M-2002
5100-608C	1001D	Polyvinyl Chloride Bag, Fire Shelter, M-2002
5100-609A	1002D	Case, Carrying, Fire Shelter, M-2002
5100-610A	1003A	Liner, Carrying Case, Fire Shelter, M-2002
5100-611A	1005C 1006A	Shelter, Fire, Practice, M-2002
5100-612A	1007D	Case, Carrying, Practice Fire Shelter, M-2002
5100-615A	-	Protocol for Evaluating Off-Gas Toxicity of Fire Shelter Material

This RFI is open to all sources of material, both foreign and domestic. The sourcing of material will need to be identified.

Respondents to this RFI shall submit:

1. A physical description of the material(s), including weight per square yard.
2. A sample of six (6) lineal yards with a minimum width of 30 inches of the material(s), laminate(s), and/or component(s).
3. Indicate whether additional material is available and the lead time required for delivery.

4. Identify the sourcing (foreign or domestic) of the material(s). If foreign, specify the country of origin.
5. Identify the cost of the material(s) (\$ USD/square yard).
6. Any emailed attachments shall be in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format.

This information will be evaluated by the program office. Based on the technical data provided by each respondent and a screening test, the program office will determine if materials warrant additional testing and evaluation. Respondents will be kept informed of the status of their material submission and whether additional evaluation is desired. The results of this request will be used by the Technology and Development Program to make decisions regarding the selection of materials to rigorously test for possible use in fire shelter construction. In addition to samples, full scale fire shelters may be submitted for evaluation. If full scale fire shelters are submitted, the sample of 6 lineal yards is still required. Test procedures for selected materials are described in the test protocol available at [http://www.nifc.gov/fireShelt/fshelt\\_updates.html](http://www.nifc.gov/fireShelt/fshelt_updates.html). Additional tests may be added. Testing is scheduled to commence in 2014.

The Government will not reimburse any business concern for any information or materials submitted in response to this RFI. This request does not constitute a solicitation for proposals or the authority to enter into negotiations to award a contract. Submission of information or samples is voluntary. Any proprietary information will be safeguarded as proprietary. Materials submitted in response to this RFI will not be returned. Business concerns submitting responses should indicate whether they are large, small, small disadvantaged, 8(a), HUBZone, or service disabled veteran owned small business. Large business concerns are not prohibited from responding to this announcement. There is no planned procurement action that will accompany this program.

All interested business concerns are required to respond to this RFI announcement via email and/or shipment no later than Friday, August 1, 2014. If material cannot be delivered by that date, provide a reason why and the estimated date a shipment would be expected. Responses must include company point of contact, email address, telephone and fax numbers. All interested business concerns responding to this announcement shall send their submission to Mary Ann Davies at the following address:

US Forest Service  
Missoula Technology and Development Center  
ATTN: Mary Ann Davies  
5785 Highway 10 West  
Missoula, MT 59808

Mary Ann Davies may be contacted via email at [mdavies@fs.fed.us](mailto:mdavies@fs.fed.us).

General fire shelter questions may be directed to Tony Petrilli via email at [apetrilli@fs.fed.us](mailto:apetrilli@fs.fed.us).